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World Premier Unveiling of Hollywood Glamour in Santa Barbara

Santa Barbara Museum of Art Presents *Garbo's Garbos*
June 4 – August 21, 2005

“The cinema has given precisely one great artist to the world: Greta Garbo...unless you also count that damn mouse.”

- Louis B. Mayer

May 16, 2005 – On view for the first time, *Garbo's Garbos* features 90 vintage photographs from the movie legend's private collection. Organized by the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, the exhibition showcases the career of film star Greta Garbo in the centennial year of her birth.

Portraits taken by the great Hollywood and New York photographers – Arnold Genthe, Edward Steichen, George Hurrell and Clarence Bull, among others – are included in the exhibition. The imagery was originally created to promote the major productions and stars of the golden age of Hollywood. Today, such a collection acts as a testimonial to the seductive power of the photographic image and provides a glimpse into the life of the alluring, and sometimes illusive, Greta Garbo.

“Few other collections possess such a rich trove of original photographs,” comments guest-curator, Robert Dance, who also co-curated the recent Santa Barbara Museum of Art exhibition, *Ruth Harriet Louise and Hollywood Glamour Photography*. “These photographs have attained historical significance by continuing to promote the Garbo name and face to new generations who have never viewed her films. Garbo recognized the importance of these photographs and carefully saved them for her family.”

A lavishly produced book, produced by Rizzoli in four languages, accompanies the exhibition, with contributions by Dance and Scott Reisfield, Greta Garbo's grand-nephew. The publication includes eighty full-page photographs of Garbo that document her twenty-six American and two European films, and her evolution as both an actress and icon of beauty and style.

Reisfield, who has catalogued Garbo's unique and extraordinary collection, contributes the introductory essay to the book.

In conjunction with the exhibition, SBMA will offer a series of free film screenings of classic Garbo films at 5 pm in the Museum's Mary Craig Auditorium, including *A Woman of Affairs* (June 23), *Queen Christina* (June 30) and *Ninotchka* (July 7) .

This exhibition has been made possible through the generous support of Northern Trust, the Santa Barbara Museum of Art Women's Board, Eric Skipsey, and Marie L. Morrisroe.

The Santa Barbara Museum of Art is a privately funded, not-for-profit institution that presents internationally recognized collections and exhibitions and a broad array of cultural and educational activities as well as travel opportunities around the world.

Santa Barbara Museum of Art, 1130 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA.

Open Tuesday - Sunday 11 am to 5 pm. Closed Monday. Free every Sunday.

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